

**The U.S. Department of Commerce
and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Announce a Joint Initiative
for Enhanced Cooperation on IPR and Other Issues**

March 30, 2006

U.S. Department of Commerce
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan

Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez of the United States and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Toshihiro Nikai of Japan confirmed on March 30 their intent to enhance bilateral cooperation on IPR protection and enforcement and other issues.

This cooperation will involve exchanging information, sharing resources, and working together to build stronger government-industry relationships both within and between our countries to address IPR concerns, especially in third countries, by:

- **Enhancing Cooperation on IPR Protection and Enforcement**
 - Developing best practices for government outreach to industry including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
 - Sharing information on IPR enforcement activities
 - Working together toward streamlining of patent procedures and harmonization of patent laws
 - Strengthening technical assistance

In addition, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will enhance cooperation on:

- **Standards and Conformity Assessment**
- **Export Controls**
- **Clean Development and Climate**
- **Information Technology Security**

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